

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01268 251643Z

53

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SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT WHICH USREP
PLANS TO GIVE DURING A.M. MEETING FEBRUARY 26TH.
ANY COMMENTS NEEDED BY COB TODAY.

2. QTE. MR. CHAIRMAN, THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN CHILE IS ONE OF DEEP CONCERN TO MY GOVERNMENT, TO OUR
CONGRESS, TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE LONG ASSOCIATION
WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND
PEOPLE OF CHILE HAS LED US TO FOLLOW WITH CLOSE ATTENTION
THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT COUNTRY. WE HAVE HEARD AND
READ THE REPORTS OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE.
WE HAVE TRIED TO TAKE SUCH STEPS BOTH DIRECTLY WITH THE
GOVERNMENT OF CHILE AND IN INTERNATIONAL FORA WHICH WE
HAVE DEEMED TO BE MOST LIKELY TO INFLUENCE EVENTS IN
THAT COUNTRY IN A POSITIVE WAY.

THE STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE HAS BEEN THE
SUBJECT OF A REPORT WHICH HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND WHICH IS A PART
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01268 251643Z

OF THE DOCUMENTATION OF OUR COMMISSION. THIS REPORT

AND THE OBSERVATIONS ON IT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE
REMAIN TO BE ACTED UPON BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS
LATER THIS YEAR. OUR DELEGATION THINKS IT IS OF
IMPORTANCE FOR CHARTING THE COURSE THIS COMMISSION
WILL TAKE THAT THE COMMISSION BE KEPT FULLY APPRISED
OF DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.

CHILE HAS HAD A PROUD HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP IN
THE SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINENT IN THE OBSERVANCE OF
BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. WE ARE ALL AWARE OF THE MANY
CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THIS
COMMISSION HAVE MADE TO THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE
TREND OF EVENTS IN CHILE WILL BE IN THE DIRECTION OF
IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE GIVEN RISE
TO THE REPORTS WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED. MY GOVERNMENT
HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE
TAKEN PLACE IN THAT COUNTRY DURING THE PAST YEAR AND
PARTICULARLY DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS. WE HAVE
LEARNED OF THE RELEASE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF DETAINEES,
RELEASES WHICH CONTINUE TO BE ANNOUNCED. WE THINK
THAT THESE TENDENCIES TOWARD IMPROVEMENT NEED TO BE
ENCOURAGED. CERTAINLY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE HAS
SHOWN AN UNUSUAL WILLINGNESS TO OPEN ITSELF UP TO
INVESTIGATION AND TO LET THE WORLD KNOW THE FACTS OF
THE SITUATION THERE THROUGH THE REPORTS OF OBJECTIVE
OBSERVERS. WE THINK THAT THIS OPENNESS,
WHICH IS UNUSUAL WITH RESPECT TO GOVERNMENTS THAT
HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS, SHOWS
AN INTENT AND WILLINGNESS TO MOVE FORWARD.

IT IS IN THIS SETTING THAT MY GOVERNMENT APPROACHES
THE DISCUSSION OF ITEM 7 OF OUR AGENDA WHICH OPENED
IN THE COMMISSION YESTERDAY. IT IS ENTIRELY PROPER
THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD CONCERN ITSELF WITH THIS
QUESTION. WE HAVE JUST FINISHED A STUDY OF A NUMBER
OF SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS UNDER THE PROCEDURES
OF ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1503. WE ARE ENCOURAGED AT THE
EVIDENCE OF A GROWING PRACTICE OF OUR COMMISSION TO
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 01268 251643Z

TAKE UP ALL SERIOUS CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS,
WHEREVER THEY MAY OCCUR IN THE WORLD.

IN THE SPEECHES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN IN
THIS DEBATE, WE HAVE BEEN REMINDED OF THE ACTION WHICH
THE COMMISSION TOOK LAST YEAR IN SENDING A TELEGRAM.
THIS WAS FOLLOWED UP BY THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND FINALLY BY THE GENERAL

ASSEMBLY LAST OCTOBER. THIS COMMISSION HAS BEEN ASKED BY THE ASSEMBLY, THROUGH ITS ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSAL OF OUR SUBCOMMISSION, TO STUDY THE REPORTED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE. AS THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE NOTED IN EXPLAINING HIS VOTE ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S RESOLUTION, THE UNITED STATES COULD HAVE SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATION FOR A STUDY SO LONG AS THE RESOLUTION CARRYING THE RECOMMENDATION WAS PHRASED IN SUCH TERMS TO ASSURE AN OBJECTIVE STUDY WITHOUT PREJUDGMENT. THAT REMAINS THE POSITION OF MY GOVERNMENT.

WE THINK OUR TASK NOW, IN THE LIGHT OF THE HISTORY OF ACTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS BODIES SINCE LAST YEAR, IS TO FIND THE MEANS BY WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS CAN BRING ITS INFLUENCE TO BEAR IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY. WE HAVE NOTED A CERTAIN TENDENCY DURING PAST DISCUSSIONS OF THIS QUESTION TO EMPHASIZE THE PROPAGANDA ASPECTS OF THE RESOLUTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PROPOSED, TO STRESS THE NEED FOR CONDEMNATION AS THOUGH THAT WERE AN IMPORTANT END IN ITSELF. MR. CHAIRMAN, MY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WILLING AND ANXIOUS TO GO ON RECORD ON PAST OCCASIONS IN MAKING KNOWN OUR CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION IN CHILE, AND IN SUPPORTING ACTIONS WHICH GAVE EXPRESSION TO THAT CONCERN IN APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE. WE THINK THE TIME NOW HAS COME TO FIND A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS TO PLAY. WE THINK THE TIME HAS NOW COME TO BUILD UPON THE WILLINGNESS WHICH WE ARE CONVINCED EXISTS ON THE PART OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE PROGRESS IN BRINGING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SITUATION. THE UNITED NATIONS CAN, WE THINK, PLAY A ROLE WHICH WILL BE UNIQUELY HELPFUL, WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 GENEVA 01268 251643Z

WILL BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE. AFTER ALL, THAT IS OUR BASIC CONCERN - THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLES OF CHILE AND THEIR ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. TO CONDEMN A GOVERNMENT OVER AND OVER AGAIN MISDIRECTS THE CAPABILITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH SHOULD BE UTILIZED IN A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH. WE ARE NOT INTERESTED IN FORCING THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE TO BACK AWAY FROM THE CONTACTS WHICH IT HAS SO FAR MAINTAINED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND WITH THOSE GROUPS WHICH HAVE VISITED CHILE. THIS COMMISSION CAN OFFER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE A MEANS FOR ENCOURAGING THAT GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE AND TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION STILL FURTHER.

IT IS FOR THESE REASONS, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT WE

LOOK WITH GREAT FAVOR UPON THE CENTRAL IDEA WHICH IS CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY THE NETHERLANDS, NICARAGUA AND THE UK. A WORKING GROUP WHICH OUR DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN MIGHT LEAD AND WHICH WOULD BE COMPOSED OF PERSONS WHOSE QUALIFICATIONS WOULD GIVE THE GREATEST HOPE FOR POSITIVE RESULTS SHOULD PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT NEW ELEMENT FOR INFLUENCING EVENTS. THE WORKING GROUP WILL BE ABLE TO PRESENT TO US AN ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE SITUATION IN CHILE AS IT WILL DEVELOP BETWEEN THIS SESSION AND THE ONE NEXT YEAR. SUCH A WORKING GROUP, FROM THE FACT OF ITS CREATION AND FROM THE FACT OF ITS OPERATION, HOPEFULLY WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE, SHOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT IN ASSISTING DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE ALONG THE HOPED FOR COURSE. THIS, OF COURSE, IS ONE OF THE KEY ELEMENTS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP, THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT WILL RECEIVE THE COOPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE. I, THEREFORE, EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO ASSURE THAT THIS PART OF THE RESOLUTION IS DRAFTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO OFFER THE MOST ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE TO EXTEND ITS FULL COOPERATION.

MR. CHAIRMAN, SUCH A DECISION ON THE PART OF OUR COMMISSION WILL REPRESENT THE MOST PROGRESSIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 05 GENEVA 01268 251643Z

APPROACH. IT WILL DEMONSTRATE OUR INTEREST IN ASSISTING IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SITUATION IN CHILE AND SERVE AS A TESTAMENT OF OUR OWN HOPES AND FAITH THAT THE LOT OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE CAN BE BETTERED. IT IS THEREFORE OUR HOPE, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT UPON THE RESOLUTION WHICH THE THREE CO-SPONSORS HAVE PROPOSED TO US. END QTE. DALE

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